

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are in the case. In the Office Action, Claims 1-19 were allowed, for which indication the applicants thank the Examiner. Also in the Office Action, Claims 20, 22-25 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,523,935 to Torgerson et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,106,096 to Komplin et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,697,144 to Mitani et al.; Claims 26 and 28-31 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,523,935 to Torgerson et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,106,096 to Komplin et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,697,144 to Mitani et al.; and Claims 21 and 27 were objected to but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, for which indication the applicants thank the Examiner.

Applicants have added the limitations of objected to Claim 21 into Claim 20, thereby overcoming the rejection made by the Examiner with respect to Claim 20. Claim 21 has been cancelled. Applicants have also added the limitations of objected to Claim 27 into Claim 26, thereby overcoming the rejection made by the Examiner with respect to Claim 26. Claim 27 has been cancelled. Because Claims 22-25 depend from Claim 20, Claims 22-25 are also allowable. Similarly, because Claims 28-31 depend from amended Claim 26, Claims 22-25 are likewise allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants assert that the claims of the present application, as amended herein, patentably define over the prior art made of record and not relied upon for the same reasons as given above. Applicants respectfully submit that a full and complete response to the office action is provided herein, and that the application is now fully in condition for allowance. Action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

In the event this response is not timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for the appropriate extension of time and request that the fee for the extension along with any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper be charged to our Deposit Account No. 12-2355.

Respectfully submitted,

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